

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
United States Patent and Trademark Office
International Design Applications (Hague Agreement)
OMB CONTROL NUMBER 0651-00xx
(Final)

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Necessity of Information Collection

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a notice of proposed rulemaking titled “Changes to Implement the Hague Agreement Concerning International Registration of Industrial Designs” (RIN 0651-AC87) in the *Federal Register*. In the notice, the USPTO proposed changes to the rules of practice to implement title I of the Patent Law Treaties Implementation Act of 2012.

The Patent Law Treaties Implementation Act of 2012 (PLTIA) amends the patent laws to implement the provisions of the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning International Registration of Industrial Designs (Hague Agreement) in title 1, and the Patent Law Treaty (PLT) in title II. The Hague Agreement facilitates obtaining intellectual property protection for industrial designs by applicants in countries and intergovernmental organizations that are Contracting Parties to the Hague Agreement through a single standardized application filed directly with the International Bureau (IB) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) or indirectly through an appropriate Contracting Party’s Office, such as the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). It is administered by the IB of WIPO located in Geneva, Switzerland.

Thus, under the Hague Agreement, a U.S. applicant could file an international design application in English with the USPTO, which will forward the application to the IB. The industrial design or designs will be eligible for protection in the all the Contracting Parties designated by the applicant.

The IB ascertains whether the international design application complies with formal requirements, registers the international design in the International Register, and publishes the international registration in the International Designs Bulletin. The international registration contains all of the data of the international application, any reproduction of the industrial design, date of the international registration, number of the international registration, and relevant class of the International Classification.

The IB will provide a copy of the publication of the international registration to each Contracting Party designated by the applicant. A designated Contracting Party may perform a substantive examination of the design application. The USPTO will perform a

substantive examination for patentability of the international design application, as in the case of regular U.S. design applications.

The Hague Agreement enables applicants from a Contracting Party to obtain protection of their designs with minimal formality and expense. Additionally, under the Hague Agreement, the international registration can be centrally maintained by the IB. For example, through the IB, applicants can record changes of their representative or changes in ownership, and renew their international registration.

This collection of information is required by the provisions of the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning International Registration of Industrial Designs which was adopted on July 2, 1999. The U.S. Senate ratified the Hague Agreement on December 7, 2007. However, the Hague Agreement did not enter into force as to the United States upon ratification in 2007 as the Hague Agreement is not a self-executing treaty. Title I of the PLTIA, enacted on December 18, 2012, amended Title 35, United States Code, in order to implement the Hague Agreement. The provisions implemented by the United States are in Part V of Title 35 of the U.S. Code (§§ 381-390) and Subpart I of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations (37 CFR 1.1001-1.1070).

In support of the proposed rulemaking, the USPTO is submitting this new information collection, International Design Applications (Hague Agreement). This collection of information covers all international design applications received by the USPTO as an office of indirect filing, regardless of whether the United States is designated.

The information items in this collection are unique to the Hague rulemaking. Three fees (the basic fee, applicable designation fees for other countries designated, and publication fee) may be collected by the USPTO as an office of indirect filing, and the USPTO forwards the fees to WIPO. These non-USPTO fees are combined into a single estimated fee amount in item 1. If the U.S. is designated, a first part individual designation fee is part of the applicable designation fees that USPTO forwards to WIPO. Fees collected under 37 U.S.C. 1.16 for design applications are accounted for in 0651-0072.

The statutes and regulations necessitating the USPTO to collect this information are provided in Table 1 below.

2. Needs and Uses

The information requested in this collection is necessary for respondents to file an international design application and for the USPTO to process international design applications and related correspondence under the Hague Agreement. If this information were not collected, the USPTO would not be able to fulfill its obligations under the Hague Agreement. The IB also uses this information to administer the treaty.

Some of the information in this collection has associated forms as indicated in Table 2

below. Use of the forms is not mandatory, but the USPTO suggests applicants use these forms to ensure that all of the necessary information is provided and to assist the USPTO in processing international design applications quickly and efficiently.

The Information Quality Guidelines from Section 515 of Public Law 106-554, Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2001, apply to this information collection, and this information collection and its supporting statement comply with applicable information quality guidelines.

Table 1 outlines how this collection of information is used by the public and the USPTO:

Table 1: Information Requirements and Needs and Uses

	Item/Form and Function	Statute	Rule	Form #	Needs and Uses
1	Application for International Registration	35 U.S.C §§ 382 and 383	37 CFR 1.1022	WIPO DM/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used by the public to supply the information required for an international design application under the Hague Agreement. Used by the USPTO to process and forward the international design application to the IB according to the Hague Agreement.
2	Claim and Reproductions (Drawings)	35 U.S.C §§ 382 and 383	37 CFR 1.1021	No Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used by the public as part of the international design application. Used by the USPTO to process the international design application according to the Hague Agreement.
3	Transmittal Letter	35 U.S.C § 2(b)(2)	37 CFR 1.4, 1.5	No Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used by the public as a cover letter to supply a certification if the design application was submitted via Express Mail and entitles an applicant to obtain a filing date as of the date of deposit with the postal authorities. Used by the public as a transmittal letter for power of attorney, fee payments, and other items.
4	Appointment of a Representative	35 U.S.C § 2(b)(2)	37 CFR 1.1041	No Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used by the public to allow for the appointment of an agent to represent an applicant for a given international design application filed under the Hague Agreement. Used by the USPTO to accept the appointment of an attorney or agent to represent an applicant for a given international design application filed under the Hague Agreement.

	Item/Form and Function	Statute	Rule	Form #	Needs and Uses
5	Petition to Excuse a Failure to Comply with a Time Limit	35 U.S.C § 387	37 CFR 1.1051	No Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used by the public to seek relief by the USPTO due to an applicant's failure to act within prescribed time limits under the Hague Agreement in connection with requirements pertaining to an international design application. Used by the USPTO to grant an applicant's requested relief from the prescribed time limits when the delay in applicant's failure to act was unintentional.
6	Petition to Convert to a Design Application under 35 U.S.C. Chapter 16	35 U.S.C § 384(a)	37 CFR 1.1052	No Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used by the public to treat the international design application as an application for a design patent under 35 U.S.C. Chapter 16. Used by the USPTO to grant an applicant's request to treat the international design application as an application for a design patent under 35 U.S.C. Chapter 16.
7	Petition to Review a Filing Date	35 U.S.C § 384(b)	37 CFR 1.1023(b)	No Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used by the public where the applicant believes the international design application is entitled under the Hague Agreement to a filing date in the United States other than the date of international registration. Used by the USPTO to grant an applicant's requested relief for a different filing date.
8	Fee Authorization	35 U.S.C § 382(b)	37 CFR 1.125	No Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used by the public to charge the applicant's deposit account along with instructions concerning how much to charge and for what purpose. Used by the USPTO Finance Branch to apply the charged fees to the applicant's deposit account.
9	Petitions to the Commissioner	35 U.S.C § 2(b)(2)	37 CFR 1.181, 1.182 and 1.183	No Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used by the public to petition for relief due to Office error, for questions not otherwise provided for, and for relief in exceptional circumstances. Used by the USPTO to grant relief due to Office error, for questions not otherwise provided for, and for relief in exceptional circumstances.

3. Use of Information Technology

The items in this collection may be submitted online using EFS-Web, the USPTO's Web-based electronic filing system.

EFS-Web allows customers to file patent applications and associated documents electronically through their standard Web browser without downloading special software, changing their document preparation tools, or altering their workflow

processes. Typically, the customer will prepare the documents as standard PDF files and then upload them to the USPTO servers using the secure EFS-Web interface. EFS-Web offers many benefits to filers, including immediate notification that a submission has been received by the USPTO, automated processing of requests, and avoidance of postage or other paper delivery costs.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication

This information is collected only when an applicant or representative submits an international design application and is not collected elsewhere. Duplication of identifying information is required on subsequent correspondence to ensure that the correspondence can be associated with the correct application. In general, submissions under the Hague Agreement are designed to minimize the need for duplication by allowing an applicant to file a single design application that has the effect of a national design application filed in multiple countries or intergovernmental organizations that are Contracting Parties to the Hague Agreement.

5. Minimizing the Burden to Small Entities

The information in this collection is necessary in order to process requests related to international industrial design applications. The same type of information relating to design applications is required from every applicant and is not available from any other source.

Applicants who file an international design application must pay the same fees applicable to domestic applicants. These existing fees include small and micro entity discounts. See 37 CFR 1.27-1.29, 37 CFR 1.9, 1.17, and 1.1031.

No significant burden is placed on small entities, in that small entities must only identify themselves as such in order to obtain these benefits, and micro entities must only provide a certification of micro entity status. An assertion of small or micro entity status only needs to be filed once in an application (although a fee may be paid in the micro entity amount only if the applicant is still entitled to micro entity status on the date the fee is paid).

Two new fees are associated with this collection of information under 35 U.S.C. 41(d). The office is proposing to set a fee for transmitting applications to the International Bureau of WIPO and for converting an international design application to a domestic design application. No small or micro entity discounts are available for these two fees set at cost recovery.

6. Consequences of Less Frequent Collection

The information is collected only when an applicant or representative submits information under the Hague Agreement. This collection of information is necessary to

process design applications and could not be conducted less frequently. If this information were not collected, the USPTO would not be able to process the application as required by the PLTIA.

7. Special Circumstances in the Conduct of Information Collection

There are no special circumstances associated with this collection of information.

8. Consultations Outside the Agency

The USPTO published a notice of proposed rulemaking titled “Changes to Implement the Hague Agreement Concerning International Registration of Industrial Designs” (RIN 0651-AC87) in the *Federal Register* and is seeking comments from the public on the notice of proposed rulemaking and will consider any comments received in development of the final rule.

9. Payment or Gifts to Respondents

This information collection does not involve a payment or gift to any respondent.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality

The confidentiality of international design patent applications is governed by Article 10(4) of the Geneva Act (1999) of the Hague Agreement, 35 U.S.C. § 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. The USPTO has a legal obligation to maintain the confidentiality of the contents of unpublished design applications and related documents. Until international publication of the international registration takes place, generally six months after the date of the international registration of the international design application, no third party or authority is allowed access to the international design application unless such access is requested or authorized by the applicant. Upon publication of an international design application or issuance of a design application, the patent application file is made available to the public.

11. Justification of Sensitive Questions

None of the required information in this collection is considered to be sensitive.

12. Estimate of Hour and Cost Burden to Respondents

Table 3 calculates the burden hours and costs of this information collection to the public, based on the following factors:

- **Respondent Calculation Factors**

The USPTO estimates that it will receive approximately 3,310 responses per year for this collection, with approximately 50% of these responses submitted by small entities.

These estimates are based on the Agency's long-standing institutional knowledge of and experience with the type of information collected by these items.

- **Burden Hour Calculation Factors**

The USPTO estimates that the responses in this collection will take the public approximately 15 minutes (0.25 hours) to 6 hours to complete. This includes the time to gather the necessary information, create the document, and submit the completed request to the USPTO. The USPTO calculates that, on balance, it takes the same amount of time to gather the necessary information, create the document, and submit it to the USPTO, whether the public submits the information on paper form or electronically.

These estimates are based on the Agency's long-standing institutional knowledge of and experience with the type of information collected and the length of time necessary to complete responses containing similar or like information.

- **Cost Burden Calculation Factors**

The USPTO uses a professional rate of \$389 per hour for respondent cost burden calculations, which is the mean rate for attorneys in private firms as shown in the 2013 *Report of the Economic Survey*, published by the Committee on Economics of Legal Practice of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA).

Based on the Agency's long-standing institutional knowledge of and experience with the type of information collected, the Agency uses the estimate of \$389 to calculate the estimated cost per hour for respondents.

Table 2: Burden Hours/Burden Costs to Respondents

	Item	Hours (a)	Responses (yr) (b)	Burden (hrs/yr) (c) (a x b)	Rate (\$/hr) (d)	Total Cost (\$/yr) (e) (c x d)
1	Application for International Registration	6.00	1,000	6,000	\$389.00	\$2,334,000.00
2	Claim and Reproductions (Drawings)	4.00	1,000	4,000	\$389.00	\$1,556,000.00
3	Transmittal Letter	2.00	900	1,800	\$389.00	\$700,200.00

	Item	Hours (a)	Responses (yr) (b)	Burden (hrs/yr) (c) (a x b)	Rate (\$/hr) (d)	Total Cost (\$/yr) (e) (c x d)
4	Appointment of a Representative	0.25	100	25	\$389.00	\$9,725.00
5	Petition to Excuse a Failure to Comply with a Time Limit	4.00	50	200	\$389.00	\$77,800.00
6	Petition to Convert to a Design Application under 35 U.S.C. Chapter 16	4.00	20	80	\$389.00	\$31,120.00
7	Petition to Review a Filing Date	4.00	20	80	\$389.00	\$31,120.00
8	Fee Authorization	0.25	200	50	\$389.00	\$19,450.00
9	Petitions to the Commissioner	4.00	20	80	\$389.00	\$31,120.00
	Totals	-----	3,310	12,315	-----	\$4,790,535.00

13. Total Annual (Non-hour) Cost Burden

The total annual (non-hour) respondent cost burden for this collection is calculated in Table 3 below. This collection has no capital start-up, maintenance, or record keeping costs.

Postage

The USPTO estimates that the average postage cost for a paper submission will be \$5.60 (USPS Priority Mail, flat rate envelope) and that 81 submissions will be mailed to the USPTO per year.

Table 3: Annual (Non-Hour) Cost Burden

	Type of Cost	Estimated Annual Responses	Amount	Totals
	FEE			
1	Application for International Registration* (electronic)	490		
	a) Average Fee per registration to WIPO (collecting for WIPO)		\$1,672.00	
	b) Designation Fee (first part) for the U.S. (collecting for WIPO)		\$760.00	
	c) Transmittal Fee (set by and collected by USPTO)		\$130.00	
			\$2,562.00	\$1,255,380.00

	Type of Cost	Estimated Annual Responses	Amount	Totals
1	Application for International Registration* (non-electronic) a) Average Fee per registration to WIPO (collecting for WIPO) b) Designation Fee (first part) for the U.S. (collecting for WIPO) c) Transmittal Fee (set by and collected by USPTO)	10	\$1,672.00 \$760.00 <u>\$130.00</u> \$2,562.00	\$25,620.00
1	Application for International Registration* (small entity) (electronic) a) Average Fee per registration to WIPO (collecting for WIPO) b) Designation Fee (first part) for the U.S. (collecting for WIPO) c) Transmittal Fee (set by and collected by USPTO)	245	\$1,672.00 \$380.00 <u>\$130.00</u> \$2,182.00	\$534,590.00
1	Application for International Registration* (small entity) (non-electronic) a) Average Fee per registration to WIPO (collecting for WIPO) b) Designation Fee (first part) for the U.S.(collecting for WIPO) c) Transmittal Fee (set by and collected by USPTO)	5	\$1,672.00 \$380.00 <u>\$130.00</u> \$2,182.00	\$10,910.00
1	Application for International Registration* (micro entity) (electronic) a) Average Fee per registration to WIPO (collecting for WIPO) b) Designation Fee (first part) for the U.S. (collecting for WIPO) c) Transmittal Fee (set by and collected by USPTO)	245	\$1,672.00 \$190.00 <u>\$130.00</u> \$1,992.00	\$488,040.00
1	Application for International Registration* (micro entity) (non-electronic) a) Average Fee per registration to WIPO (collecting for WIPO) b) Designation Fee (first part) for the U.S. (collecting for WIPO) c) Transmittal Fee (set by and collected by USPTO)	5	\$1,672.00 \$190.00 <u>\$130.00</u> \$1,992.00	\$9,960.00
2	Claim and Reproductions (Drawings) (electronic)	490	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	Claim and Reproductions (Drawings) (non-electronic)	10	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	Claim and Reproductions (Drawings) (small entity) (electronic)	245	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	Claim and Reproductions (Drawings) (small entity) (non-electronic)	5	\$0.00	\$0.00

	Type of Cost	Estimated Annual Responses	Amount	Totals
2	Claim and Reproductions (Drawings) (micro entity) (electronic)	245	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	Claim and Reproductions (Drawings) (micro entity) (non-electronic)	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	Transmittal Letter (electronic)	441	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	Transmittal Letter (non-electronic)	9	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	Transmittal Letter (small entity) (electronic)	220	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	Transmittal Letter (small entity) (non-electronic)	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	Transmittal Letter (micro entity)	220	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	Transmittal Letter (micro entity) (non-electronic)	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Appointment of a Representative (electronic)	49	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Appointment of a Representative (non-electronic)	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Appointment of a Representative (small entity) (electronic)	24	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Appointment of a Representative (small entity) (non-electronic)	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Appointment of a Representative (micro entity) (electronic)	24	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Appointment of a Representative (micro entity) (non-electronic)	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
5	Petition to Excuse a Failure to Comply with a Time Limit (electronic)	24	\$1,700.00	\$40,800.00
5	Petition to Excuse a Failure to Comply with a Time Limit (non-electronic)	1	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
5	Petition to Excuse a Failure to Comply with a Time Limit (small entity) (electronic)	12	\$850.00	\$10,200.00
5	Petition to Excuse a Failure to Comply with a Time Limit (small entity) (non-electronic)	1	\$850.00	\$850.00
5	Petition to Excuse a Failure to Comply with a Time Limit (micro entity) (electronic)	11	\$850.00	\$9,350.00
5	Petition to Excuse a Failure to Comply with a Time Limit (micro entity) (non-electronic)	1	\$850.00	\$850.00

	Type of Cost	Estimated Annual Responses	Amount	Totals
6	Petition to Convert to a Design Application under 35 U.S.C. Chapter 16 (electronic)	8	\$180.00	\$1,440.00
6	Petition to Convert to a Design Application under 35 U.S.C. Chapter 16 (non-electronic)	2	\$180.00	\$360.00
6	Petition to Convert to a Design Application under 35 U.S.C. Chapter 16 (small entity) (electronic)	4	\$180.00	\$720.00
6	Petition to Convert to a Design Application under 35 U.S.C. Chapter 16 (small entity) (non-electronic)	1	\$180.00	\$180.00
6	Petition to Convert to a Design Application under 35 U.S.C. Chapter 16 (micro entity) (electronic)	4	\$180.00	\$720.00
6	Petition to Convert to a Design Application under 35 U.S.C. Chapter 16 (micro entity) (non-electronic)	1	\$180.00	\$180.00
7	Petition to Review a Filing Date (electronic)	8	\$400.00	\$3,200.00
7	Petition to Review a Filing Date (non-electronic)	2	\$400.00	\$800.00
7	Petition to Review a Filing Date (small entity) (electronic)	4	\$200.00	\$800.00
7	Petition to Review a Filing Date (small entity) (non-electronic)	1	\$200.00	\$200.00
7	Petition to Review a Filing Date (micro entity) (electronic)	4	\$100.00	\$400.00
7	Petition to Review a Filing Date (micro entity) (non-electronic)	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
8	Fee Authorization (electronic)	98	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Fee Authorization (non-electronic)	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Fee Authorization (small entity) (electronic)	49	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Fee Authorization (small entity) (non-electronic)	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Fee Authorization (micro entity) (electronic)	49	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Fee Authorization (micro entity) (non-electronic)	1	\$0.00	\$0.00

	Type of Cost	Estimated Annual Responses	Amount	Totals
9	Petitions to the Commissioner (electronic)	8	\$400.00	\$3,200.00
9	Petitions to the Commissioner (non-electronic)	2	\$400.00	\$800.00
9	Petitions to the Commissioner (small entity) (electronic)	4	\$200.00	\$800.00
9	Petitions to the Commissioner (small entity) (non-electronic)	1	\$200.00	\$200.00
9	Petitions to the Commissioner (micro entity) (electronic)	4	\$100.00	\$400.00
9	Petitions to the Commissioner (micro entity) (non-electronic)	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
	Total Fees	3,310	-----	\$2,402,850.00
	POSTAGE			
1	Application for International Registration	20	\$5.60	\$112.00
2	Claim and Reproductions (Drawings)	20	\$5.60	\$112.00
3	Transmittal Letter	19	\$5.60	\$106.00
4	Appointment of a Representative	3	\$5.60	\$17.00
5	Petition to Excuse a Failure to Comply with a Time Limit	3	\$5.60	\$17.00
6	Petition to Convert to a Design Application under 35 U.S.C. Chapter 16	4	\$5.60	\$22.00
7	Petition to Review a Filing Date	4	\$5.60	\$22.00
8	Fee Authorization	4	\$5.60	\$22.00
9	Petitions to the Commissioner	4	\$5.60	\$22.00
	Total Postage	81	-----	\$452.00
	Total Annual (Non-hour) Cost Burden	-----	-----	\$2,403,302.00

**The breakout of the Application for International Registration Fee includes the average fees paid to WIPO in 2011, and the transmittal fee which is set by USPTO under 35 U.S.C. 41(d). WIPO fees are collected by the USPTO (on behalf of WIPO) and then transmitted to WIPO under the Hague Agreement.*

14. Annual Cost to the Federal Government

The USPTO estimates that it takes a GS-7, step 1, employee approximately 18 minutes (0.3 hours) to one hour on average to process the items in this collection.

The hourly rate for a GS-7, step 1, employee is currently \$20.22 according to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's (OPM's) wage chart, including locality pay for the Washington, DC area. When 30% is added to account for a fully loaded hourly rate (benefits and overhead), the rate per hour for a GS-7, step 1, employee is \$26.29 (\$20.22 with \$6.07 added for benefits and overhead).

Table 4 calculates the burden hours and costs to the Federal Government for processing this information collection:

Table 4: Burden Hours/Burden Costs to the Federal Government

	Item/Form No.	Hours (a)	Responses (yr) (b)	Burden (hrs/yr) (c) (a x b)	Rate (\$/hr) (d)	Total Cost (\$/yr) (e) (c x d)
1	Application for International Registration	1.0	1,000	1,000	\$26.29	\$26,290.00
2	Claim and Reproductions (Drawings)	0.5	1,000	500	\$26.29	\$13,145.00
3	Transmittal Letter	0.5	900	450	\$26.29	\$11,831.00
4	Appointment of a Representative	0.3	100	30	\$26.29	\$789.00
5	Petition to Excuse a Failure to Comply with a Time Limit	0.5	50	25	\$26.29	\$657.00
6	Petition to Convert to a Design Application under 35 U.S.C. Chapter 16	0.5	20	10	\$26.29	\$263.00
7	Petition to Review a Filing Date	0.5	20	10	\$26.29	\$263.00
8	Fee Authorization	0.3	200	60	\$26.29	\$1,577.00
9	Petitions to the Commissioner	0.5	20	10	\$26.29	\$263.00
	Totals	-----	3,310	2,095	-----	\$55,078.00

15. Reason for Changes in Annual Burden

The USPTO is submitting this new information collection request in support of a notice of proposed rulemaking titled "Changes to Implement the Hague Agreement" (RIN 0651-AC87). In the notice, the USPTO proposed changes to the rules of practice to implement title I of the Patent Law Treaties Implementation Act of 2012.

The USPTO estimates that it will receive 3,310 responses for this collection annually and that the associated burden will be 12,315 hours per year. **Therefore, an additional 12,315 burden hours per year will be added to the USPTO's current information collection inventory as a program change.**

There is non-hour cost burden in the form of filing fees and postage costs associated with this information collection, which amounts to \$2,403,302 per year. **Therefore, an additional \$2,403,302 per year in the way of non-hour cost burden will be added to the USPTO's current information collection inventory as a program change.**

16. Project Schedule

The USPTO does not plan to publish this information for statistical use or any other purpose.

17. Display of Expiration Date of OMB Approval

There are no forms in this information collection. Therefore, the display of the OMB Control Number and the expiration date is not applicable.

18. Exceptions to the Certificate Statement

This collection of information does not include any exceptions to the certificate statement.

B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection of information does not employ statistical methods.